

Smallbore Program

The Gallatin County Smallbore Program is now into its 3rd year. We have ten shooters involved with the program this year. There are eight returning shooters and two first time shooters. The returning shooters are Michelle Everett, Tim Gaworski, ReAnn Wilson, Nicole McAdams, Hannah Kuchinsky, Codi Francis, Roper Galiger, and Dustin Gee. The new shooters are Brook Kinna and Barry Francis. The members of the program are instructed in 4-position shooting and firearm safety and education. The 10 week program is held at the Greenway Range at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. The participants shoot each Monday night from 5:00 – 6:30 P.M.

The participants are enrolled in the NRA Marksmanship Program. This is a program designed to give the shooters an opportunity to improve their skills at all 4 positions. It also enhances the Participants skills in record keeping, goal setting and training. This is the third year that the Smallbore program has used this marksmanship program. There is marked improvement by all shooters. On December 19, 2005 ReAnn Wilson completed the Distinguished Expert qualifications. On the same date, Michelle Everett completed the requirements for the Montana Distinguished Shooter. Tim Gaworski is presently working on the requirements for the Montana Distinguished Shooter. Congratulations to these shooters.

The 4-H Smallbore Program was fortunate to be awarded a grant sponsored by the Friends of the NRA for the 2005-2006 year. This grant has allowed the program to purchase needed equipment for the benefit of all participants. The grant allowed for the purchase of shooting stands, scopes/stands, mats, and kneeling rolls. In addition, this grant allowed us to purchase targets and ammunition and pay for range fees. This gives the program an opportunity to provide the shooters with the best educational experience with a minimal cost of \$3.00 per night per shooter. It is our goal to be in a situation to be able to eliminate the nightly charge. A big thank you goes out to the NRA for their support of the 4-H Shooting Sports programs in Gallatin County.

The Gallatin County 4-H Smallbore Program would like to organize a training session with the Headwaters Rifle Club. This training session will introduce shooters to the next step of shooting, (High Powered Rifles). This session would be held later in the spring or early summer. There is a possibility of conducting a 4-5 week program after the training session. If there are any members of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program that are interested in participating in this program, contact Scott Francis, 284-6843, Tom Everett, 388-9076, or the 4-H Office at 582-3280. More information will follow at a later time.

2006 North Central Montana Feeder Steer & Breeding Heifer Show

Once again, Hill County is hosting the North Central Montana Feeder Show. In addition to the feeder show there will be a breeding heifer show. The show will be March 5th in the Bigger Better Barn, Havre Montana.

The show is open to all youth, including 4-H, FFA and junior cattle Breed Associations. Members must be between the ages of 10-19 as of January 1, 2006. This will be a great opportunity to expose your steer or heifer to the barn and the trailer. Buckle awards given to the top Feeder Steer and Breeding Heifer. We will also be awarding coats to the top Junior and Senior Showman. **Entry deadline is February 24, 2006.** If you would like more information or entry form for this event, call the Hill County Extension Office 265-5481 extension 233.

Sky Federal Credit Union Loan Program

Sky Federal Credit Union believes our area youth are extremely important to the future of our farming and ranching communities. They have designed a loan program specifically designed to teach youth how to budget, save, and pay off a loan! **The loan features a very low 3.50% annual percentage rate, terms up to 10 months, and is a single-pay note, payable in full with the sale of the project and when the check is received.** The program is available to any student with a 4-H or FFA project in need of financial assistance, and any project is eligible. For more details or to receive a brochure about this new program, call their Livingston office at 222-1750, their Bozeman office at 587-1750, or email info@skyfcu.org. At Sky Federal Credit Union, It's All About You!

National 4-H Photography Contest!

National 4-H Council needs winning photos from your state and county fairs (2001 – 2006) to create the 2008 4-H Calendar. Thirteen photographs will be selected. These original photographs will be gallery mounted and framed and a brass plate engraved with the title and photographer's name will be attached. The winning photos will be on display at the National 4-H Conference Center from September 2006 through November 2006 and also posted on our web site www.4-hmall.org. **VERY IMPORTANT- Submissions will only be considered if they meet certain criteria.** Please contact the extension office for complete rules and criteria. We will return all submissions, if not selected, by late August 2006. Winning photographs will be returned no sooner than December 10, 2006. After final selection we will notify the winners and both the photographer and parent/guardian must sign a release to use the photo in the 2008 4-H Calendar. We will also request a second photo to display at the National 4-H Conference Center.